



**City of Helen
Georgia's Alpine
Village**

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The City of Helen is an equal
opportunity provider and employer

**CITY OF HELEN
CALLED MEETING
JULY 12, 2022
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

Commissioners:

Jeff Ash
Steve Fowler
Fred Garmon
Cliff Hood
Cinnamon Ruston

City Manager:

Jerry M. Elkins

**City Clerk/
Clerk of Court**

Marilyn M. Chastain

Finance Officer

Mona Wood

Chief of Police:

Aletha Barrett

**Building and Zoning
Administrator:**

Darrell Westmoreland

Public Works

Director:

Jack Morgan

Fire Department

Chief:

Jody Prickett

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR FRED GARMON
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION FROM ACG FOR IT SERVICES
5. DISCUSSION OF AN INCREASE TO THE UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES
6. DISCUSSION OF POLICE OFFICERS BEING ALLOWED TO WORK AS PRIVATE SECURITY DURING OFF DUTY HOURS
7. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND AID FOR INTERNET AND CELL PHONES
8. DISCUSSION OF REPLACING CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE CITY PARK
9. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL
10. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED JULY 8, 2022 @ 9:30 A.M.

THE MEETING AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND IS NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY OF HELEN COMMISSION AT THE COMMISSION MEETING STATED HEREIN.

**CITY OF HELEN
CALLED COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 12, 2022
MINUTES OF MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR Fred Garmon

ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN; Attending were Commissioners Cinnamon Spurlock, Commissioner Jeff Ash, Mayor Fred Garmon, Commissioner Cliff Hood, Commissioner Steve Fowler.

Also attending were Finance Officer Mona Wood, City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Aletha Barrett, Fire Chief Jody Prickett, Public Works Director Jack Morgan, Building and Zoning Director Darrell Westmoreland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA; Motion to Amend the Agenda by adding as item 8-A Dona K Burke for discussion of Christmas Tree. Motion to approve the Amended Agenda made by Commissioner Cliff Hood, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Ruston. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION FROM ACG FOR IT SERVICES; Stephen Moore told about services and security their company could offer. Item Tabled to the next meeting on July 19, 2022 in order to have more time for Commissioners to look at proposal.

DISCUSSION OF AN INCREASE TO THE UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES; Discussed was the fact that boots required to work in are more expensive than the current amount allowed of \$120.00. Motion to approve increasing the uniform allowance to \$240.00 each for the Public Works/Water Waste Water Departments made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Cliff Hood. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

DISCUSSION OF POLICE OFFICERS BEING ALLOWED TO WORK AS PRIVATE SECURITY DURING OFF DUTY HOURS; Discussed was the possible liability issue of officers driving police vehicles, wearing uniforms and using city issued weapons while working off duty. Commissioner Steve Fowler made a motion to approve allowing if GIRMA the insurance provider allows and coverage on liability is clearly provided in document form, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Ruston. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND AID FOR INTERNET AND CELL PHONES; Commissioner Steve Fowler stated that during the weekend a call had been placed to 911 that could not get thru due to poor cell service and thinks that someone in a official capacity should be contacted to help with the safety issue. Commissioner Cliff Hood stated he had spoken with several people while in Savannah and had been suggested to install mini cell towers possibly on the water tanks. Suggested was to do a survey to test

**CITY OF HELEN
CALLED COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 12, 2022
MINUTES OF MEETING
PAGE 2**

The frequency. Building & Zoning Director Darrell Westmoreland stated that a prior study had been done by ATT and that he had discussed with Terry Sims the problem but that due to the lack of residents ATT is not interested in boosting their towers. A new study to be done by Police Department's IT administrator David Perkins on Cell phones and discussed at the next Commission meeting on July 19, 2022. Commissioner Cliff Hood also suggested getting a plan written that would be required to get funding and Grants and possibly talking with a consultant for broadband.

DISCUSSION OF REPLACING CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE CITY PARK; Explained was that the tree used the past 2 years at Riverside Park had died and been removed and possible solutions for replacement. Commissioner Cliff Hood, Commissioner Cinnamon Ruston, and Commissioner Jeff Ash stated they prefer a natural tree. Commissioner Steve Fowler stated he did not object to an artificial tree. Mayor Fred Garmon stated that landscaper Bart Bartlett is working on getting a price on a replacement tree and should have by the next meeting.

Dona K Burke stated that there is still the tree downtown and that Santa is downtown as an option, but that there are still 3 trees in the park that can be decorated for the lighting and suggested to wait 1 year to see how the current trees work out. She also stated concerns on the cost, the life time of an artificial tree fading quickly and needing replaced, and the lack of space to store an artificial tree. She suggested buying a real tree and replanting and give it a few years to get established before decorating. Commissioner Cinnamon Ruston agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL; Motion to go into Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. made by Commissioner Cinnamon Ruston, 2nd by Commissioner Cliff Hood. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Motion to resume the regular Commission meeting at 12:07 p.m. made by Commissioner Cliff Hood, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Ruston. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Motion as a result of the Executive Session to appoint Darrell Westmoreland as Assistant City Manager until City Manager Jerry Elkins retirement at the end of this year, then to appoint him as Interm City Manager until a permeant replacement is chosen thru the application process made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Cliff Hood. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS; None

**CITY OF HELEN
CALLED COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 12, 2022
MINUTES OF MEETING
PAGE 3**

ADJOURNMENT; Motion to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Cliff Hood. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Chastain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.